Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Currently Amended)   An image processing apparatus comprising:

[[a]] an image pickup element which picks up an image and outputs a color image signal and a monochrome image signal;

a controlling section which outputs a signal that selects a color image output or a monochrome image output; and

a converting section which receives an input of the color image signal from the image pickup element, and in the case where the color image output is selected by the signal from the controlling section, outputs the color image signal, and in the case where the monochrome image output is selected, outputs a signal obtained by calculating an average of an average value of color image signals and a value of the monochrome image signal, instead of the monochrome image signal, only when the monochrome image signal falls within a specific density area and the average value of the color image signals is greater than the value of the monochrome image signal, and outputs the monochrome image signal in other cases that can be acquired by converting the monochrome image signal and the color image signal on the basis of a characteristic nature of the image.

3.   (Original)   An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the converting section corrects a concentration level of the monochrome image signal by using the color image signal when the monochrome image is output.

4.–7.   (Canceled)

8.   **(Currently Amended)**   An image processing apparatus comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image and outputting a color image signal and a monochrome image signal;

controlling means for outputting a signal that selects a color image output or a monochrome image output; and

converting means for receiving an input of the color image signal from the image pickup means, and for, in the case where the color image output is selected by the signal from the controlling means, outputting the color image signal, and in the case where the monochrome image output is selected, <u>outputting a signal obtained by calculating an average of an average value of color image signals and a value of the monochrome image signal, instead of the monochrome image signal, only when the monochrome image signal falls within a specific density area and the average value of the color image signals is greater than the value of the monochrome image signal, and</u> outputting the monochrome image signal <u>in other cases</u> ~~that can be acquired by converting the monochrome image signal and the color image signal on the basis of a characteristic nature of the image~~.

9.–10.   **(Canceled)**

11.   **(Currently Amended)**   An image processing method comprising:

picking up an image and outputting a color image signal and a monochrome image signal by a image pickup element;

outputting a signal that selects a color image output or a monochrome image output by a controlling section; and

receiving an input of the color image signal from the image pickup element, and in the case where the color image output is selected by the signal from the controlling section, outputting the color image signal, and in the case where the monochrome image output is selected, <u>outputting a signal obtained by calculating an average of an average value of color image signals and a value of the monochrome image signal, instead of the monochrome image signal, only when the monochrome image signal falls within a specific density area and the average value of the color image signals is greater than the value of the monochrome image signal, and</u> outputting the monochrome image signal <u>in other cases</u> ~~that can be acquired~~

~~by converting the monochrome image signal and the color image signal on the basis of a characteristic nature of the image by a converting section.~~

12.   (Original) An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein a concentration level of the monochrome image signal is corrected by using the color image signal when the monochrome image is output, by the converting section.

13.–16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a printer that prints out image data from the group consisting of the color image signal and the monochrome image signal.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the concentration level is a specific density area of the monochrome image signal.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a printing means for printing out image data from the group consisting of the color image signal and the monochrome image signal.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the converting means corrects a concentration level of the monochrome signal by using the color image signal when the monochrome image is output.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The image processing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the concentration level is a specific density area of the monochrome image signal.

23.   (Canceled)

24. **(Previously Presented)** The image processing method according to claim 11, further comprising printing out image data from the group consisting of the color image signal and the monochrome image signal.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The image processing method according to claim 12, wherein the concentration level is a specific density area of the monochrome image signal.